**Zoo School Journalism**

**Syllabus**

**Course Overview:**

Welcome to Zoo School Journalism. This semester-long course, offered to Zoo School students as an elective English course, provides students with an insight into the world of journalism. Topics discussed include journalism’s role in government, the historic roots of the American press, the definition of news, news organizations and sources, career opportunities in journalism, and the role of journalism in public relations, advertising and other fields. The objective of this course is for students to learn and understand about the world of journalism and all of its rewards and ramifications. Additionally, students will learn basic reporting and newswriting, feature writing, investigative reporting, and critical writing.

**Assessment:**

Assessment is done primarily through written articles, essays and written assessments; however, quizzes are given on vocabulary words, daily grades are taken for class assignments, response notebooks will be evaluated periodically; revision of articles and essays is crucial to demonstrate time and effort to improving writing skills. Certain writing assignments will be considered major grades and will be given with plenty of time for revision and reflection.

Six stories/articles will be written by each student throughout the semester.

Daily readings of an article from two of the following print sources: *The New York Times*, *USA Today,* and/or *The Wall Street Journal* are also a requirement for this class.

**Vocabulary Enrichment Strategies:**

Students are to hand the week’s words in for a grade and keep them in a notebook for further enrichment. Students are asked to share randomly selected words from their daily reading and present to the class; students are responsible for keeping a list of the presented words and studying for quizzes given weekly. Students are expected to be able to use the words in context either in sentences, paragraphs, and/or in articles.

**Writing Strategies and Processes:**

Since writing is a process and the skills are built onto and layered, we will be learning the fundamental elements of journalistic writing from the ground up. As I’m sure you are beginning to notice, reading and writing are the two main elements of this class. In order to make you college and career ready, we will be working on assignments that will push you to be the best reader and writer you can be.

**By the end of this course students should be at a mastery level for the following:**

Students will integrate all the language arts skills gained throughout their education. The curriculum both affirms these skills and equips the students to be life-long learners. Students continue to explore expressive, expository, argumentative, and literary contexts through their study of journalism. The emphasis in Journalism is on research, as well as journalistic informational and expository writing by developing a position of advocacy through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and using media.

Students will also become familiar with the following expected competencies for Journalism:

* Understand the principles of freedom of speech and press in America and understand the range of freedom of press and expression around the world.
* Understand the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications
* Understand gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in relation to mass communications
* Understand professional and ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diversity
* Think critically, creatively and independently
* Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to communication professionals
* Apply tools and technologies appropriate for communication professionals

**All work is due at the beginning of class; late work will incur a late grade deduction of 10 points per day.**  
  
CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:   
  
1- Prompt arrival   
2- Prepared, ready to work on time   
3- Completion of homework and assignments on time/at the beginning of class.   
4- Promotion of a positive work climate  
5- Use of appropriate language and behavior  
6- Respect of yourself, peers, faculty and school property  
  
BEHAVIOR PLAN:  
1- Conference/warning 2- Parent contact 3- Referral to office 4- Behavior contract

5- Administrative referral  
  
Supply List:  
1- One-inch binder 2- Loose-leaf paper  
3- Colored pencils 4- Flash/jump drive 5- Highlighters 6- Composition notebook or journal 7- Erasable pens or pencils  
Wish list: paper towels, ***hand sanitizer***, Clorox wipes

Syllabus/Rules Contract

Asheboro High School Zoo School

Class: Journalism Instructor: Ms. Jarrell

Semester: Fall 2013 Email: mjarrell@asheboro.k12.nc.us

For the Student:

The class syllabus and classroom rules have been explained to me and I have studied the information. I agree to follow these rules and any oral or written instructions from the teacher.

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(Student signature)

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(Student email)

For the Parent/Guardian: I am pleased to have the opportunity to teach your child. I believe that your support is invaluable and ask you to contact me throughout the semester with any questions or concerns. Please read over the syllabus and rules and kindly provide your signature to indicate that you and your student understand and accept them. Additionally, please provide your best contact information.

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(Parent/Guardian name)

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(Parent/Guardian signature) (Date)

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(Home/Cell phone number) (Email)

**Movie Permission**

I plan to show a variety of movies and video clips relating to the topics we will cover in our class, in addition to video documentaries and lectures. Some movies may be rated PG or PG-13. Please complete the one of the following statements and sign below:

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to watch PG and PG-13 rated movies in Journalism.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

I DO NOT give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to watch PG and PG-13 rated movies in Journalism.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\*\*If any content shown in your student’s class is rated R, a separate permission slip will be sent home with an explanation for the relevance in the classroom and an explanation for the “R” rating. \*\*